

Characteristics of an early pregnancy

For an early pregnancy (until the 5th week of pregnancy), the amniotic sac is not yet visible in the uterus.

Why is that?

Possible reasons for this are:

- Your cycle does not match the gestational age measured in ultrasound; the pregnancy is probably younger than suspected and therefore in ultrasound not yet visible.
- Your pregnancy is not developing normally. An early pregnancy with disturbed development occurs more frequently with advancing maternal age; more distinct heaped from 35 years. A possible consequence is a natural termination of pregnancy (abortion).
- 1-2 out of 100 pregnancies develop outside the uterus as an ectopic pregnancy. Such a pregnancy represents a **danger to the mother**, since the risk of uncontrolled bleeding into the abdominal cavity

Why is that important?

If you have at the present time a medical abortion, the localization of the pregnancy **inside the uterus** still cannot be confirmed with certainty. The medication used for abortion (*Mifegyne®/Cytotec®*) is effective exclusively on the uterus. These drugs have no effect on pregnancies outside the uterus. An ectopic pregnancy is therefore not influenced by the drugs in its growth and could continue to grow and seriously endanger your health.

Wait or abort?

What are the options?

You can either go for sure – which includes a waiting period – or immediately terminate the pregnancy.

A normally developing pregnancy can be proven by means of 2 methods:

- Progression ultrasound: is performed 1 week after the first ultrasound.
- The pregnancy hormone in the blood (Beta HCG) is measured today and in 2 days: There should be an adequate increase. A pregnancy that is vital at the present time can thus be confirmed.

If you wish to have an abortion today (without a waiting period), accept that the localization of the pregnancy **within the uterus** cannot yet be confirmed by ultrasound at the current time. There is a small risk of ectopic pregnancy.

Your advantages: (if you don't want to wait)

- There is a very high probability that there is an early pregnancy. In this case, the treatment with *Mifegyne®/Cytotec®* is safe and successful.
- If you clearly agree to have an abortion after talking to your doctor, you can – immediately after the conversation – start with the treatment. You avoid a waiting period.
- According to current experience, the very early performance of a medical abortion has rather positive effects on the tolerability of the treatment. The pregnancy is still small. Therefore, you bleed less and the discomfort caused by this is correspondingly less.
- The success is the same as with a treatment with visible amniotic sac, which corresponds to the 6th – 7th week of pregnancy.

Your disadvantages:

- Although the pregnancy is highly likely to develop within the uterus, the doctor cannot 100% exclude other sites, especially ectopic pregnancies.
- At least one further consultation is necessary.
- An abortion at an early pregnancy age does not improve drug tolerance. Strong side effects can also occur here.

Follow-up

What happens next if I want to have an abortion today?

In order to guarantee your safety, additional examinations are indispensable. When the treatment is effective, the pregnancy hormone (beta-HCG) in the blood decreases. 2 blood results are needed. The 1st blood sampling takes place today at the handing over of the drug *Mifegyne®*. A 2nd blood sample must be taken one week later. If you choose our flat fee payment instead of the health insurance payment, you will be charged these additional costs.

What complications are possible?

If the measured value of the present pregnancy hormone is very high, continues to rise or does not clearly sink, follow-up checks are necessary. An ectopic pregnancy is possible. If an ectopic pregnancy is suspected, Dr. Walther will refer you to a hospital for further treatment.

If you experience any unusual, severe or unclear abdominal pain, you should definitely call your doctor or report to a gynecological emergency room.



Educational protocol
about Medical Abortion
at very early pregnancy

Questions and remarks

Confirmation

It is my own wish that the medical abortion of pregnancy be started today without any loss of time.
For medical consequences (e.g. because the pregnancy cannot yet be confirmed safely in the uterus)
I will neither prosecute the doctor nor publicly defame* her.

I was informed by the doctor about possible risks to my complete satisfaction. Alternative treatment options
(«wait and see») were discussed and explained to me.

Last name

First name

Birthdate

Place/Date

Signature

*In Swiss criminal law, **defamation** means that someone makes defamatory claims about a person even though he or she knows that they are untrue.

